



(Photo by Sgt. Mike Pryor, 2-82 Abn. Public Affairs)

(From left) Iraqi police commander Lt. Col. Ahmed Abdullah, an interpreter, and 1st Sgt. Phong Tran, of Richmond, Va., first sergeant of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, survey a section of the protective wall being emplaced in Baghdad's Adhamiyah District as part of the Safe Neighborhood project during a joint patrol May 24.

## Construction Complete on "Safe Neighborhood" Project in Adhamiyah

By Sgt. Mike Pryor  
2-82 Abn. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - The thick chains attaching the "T-Wall" barrier to the crane shuddered as the slab of heavy concrete was lifted into the air. The crane operator worked his control stick, first swinging the barrier through the air, and then slowly lowering it into place.

As the 14,000 pounds of concrete settled onto the ground with a grinding crunch, the project to secure a neighborhood in Baghdad's Adhamiyah District behind miles

of protective barriers came to an end in darkness of the early morning May 28.

The project, overseen by the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, involved emplacing temporary barriers and checkpoints around a three-mile area of Adhamiyah in order to protect the local populace from attacks by terrorists.

"This was our biggest project to date," said Lt. Eric Brumfield, of Visalia, Calif., a platoon leader with the 2nd BCT's 407th

## Baghdad in Brief

### Tip Leads to Mortar System

BAGHDAD - Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers operating in eastern Baghdad uncovered a 60mm mortar system thanks to a tip from a local resident June 3.

A resident from the eastern Baghdad neighborhood of Sadr City approached paratroopers from 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, with information regarding the location of a mortar system he took and hid after spotting it in the back of a truck.

The paratroopers followed the lead, conducted a cordon and search of the area, and confirmed the resident's report, uncovering the mortar system.

Lt. Col. David Oclander, the executive officer for the 82nd's 2nd BCT said this event is evidence that paratroopers in the area are building trust with Sadr City residents

### Project Focus: Healthcare

BAGHDAD - The Army Corps of Engineers and local contractors have teamed up in the eastern section of the Iraqi capital known as Sadr City to renovate and re-open the Al Baladi Hospital.

The \$5.5 million project is part of an Iraqi Ministry of Health initiative to improve healthcare in the area. In addition to providing the structure, the Ministry of Health will also assign doctors, provide medical equipment and everyday, expendable, hospital supplies. Local contractors are expected to complete the project by July 18 and open the hospital later that month.

Members of the 8th Brigade 2nd Iraqi National Police Division will provide security for the hospital.

# Troops Stand Last Barrier in Adhamiyah's Security Wall

## Safe Wall

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Support Battalion, which oversaw the project's construction. "It was a massive undertaking."

Almost every night for two months straight, paratroopers from the 407th BSB left their base and convoyed to Adhamiyah, emplacing as many as 70 of the huge barriers each night alongside the main road ringing the neighborhood.

"It was probably more labor intensive than anything we've done," said Capt. Priscilla Smoot, of Miami, the commander of Company A, which did the majority of the work for the project.

Brumfield said he was shocked to read early media reports criticizing the project as a Berlin Wall-like partition dividing neighbor from neighbor. In reality, the wall was a simple security measure, he said.

"It's just like driving at home where you have barriers beside the highway. It's no dif-

ferent than that," he said.

In some sections, the project simply improved on roadblocks that residents had already emplaced themselves, said 1st Lt. Jacob Allen, of New Kent, Va., a platoon leader with Co. A. Allen also pointed out that the wall hasn't restricted foot movement at all in the area.

"There are plenty of places to walk. What this has blocked off is movement of (vehicle-borne) explosives," he said.

Brumfield said that despite the criticism of the project, his paratroopers are proud of what they accomplished.

"We're exhausted. We're tired of seeing the wall every night. But in the end, we did it. We were able to fight through the IEDs and the publicity and everything else and get it done," Brumfield said.

"Now it's time to step back and start looking at the statistics. We have to let time tell if it's going to work," he said.

So far, the results have been positive. Murders are down 61 percent in Adhamiyah

between the beginning of April, when construction began, and May 28, when it ended, according to reports compiled by the 2nd BCT.

"Since we started building the wall, we've already seen a noticeable decrease in violence," said Capt. Jared Purcell, of Lake Orion, Mich., the public affairs officer for 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, whose unit operates in the area.

Purcell said his unit will continue to closely track the effects of the safe neighborhood project.

"We will be in the community with an ear open as to how people feel about the wall, as well as how it is improving security," Purcell said. "We're constantly going to be re-evaluating the wall to make sure it is providing maximum security with minimum disruptions to people's lives."



(Photo by Maj. Sean Ransford)

**A contractor helps emplace 12-foot-high concrete barriers along a road in Baghdad's Adhamiyah District as part of the safe neighborhood project. The temporary barriers were installed by paratroopers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, in order to protect the local people by limiting terrorists' ability to enter the neighborhood and commit violence.**

**Arabic Phrase  
of the Day**  
*khadamaat aamma*  
**Defined:  
public services**

**Iraq  
3-Day  
Weather  
Report**

	Today	Tomorrow	Thursday
High: 108	High: 108	High: 108	
Low: 80	Low: 80	Low: 78	

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# Soldiers Provide Medical Assistance to Karkh Locals

By Sgt. Robert Yde  
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - After recently standing up a combat outpost in Baghdad's Karkh District, Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment decided they needed to do something to reach out to the surrounding community and let the residents know they are there to help.

The first step in this effort was a medical mission the task force, which is attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, conducted in an abandoned building adjacent to their combat outpost May 26.

"We want to establish a good relationship with the people of this community, so that they know we're close by, and that's why we're providing a little bit of medical help to them," Maj. Elvis Coronado, the unit's operations plans officer explained.

The logistical efforts for the medical mission were headed up by the civil affairs team, from Co. B, 97th Civil Affairs Battalion out of Fort Bragg, N.C., which is working with Task Force 1-14.

"Basically what we do is civil reconnaissance for the commander in the area, and we come in and assess the infrastructure and security of an area," said Sgt. 1st Class Charles Burns, the team sergeant. "This area doesn't have a clinic. So we thought with the COP being right beside it, the best thing to win over the people would be coming here and conducting a [medical mission] so that the people understand we're here to help them."

Burns, who is originally from Lakeland, Fla., said that he meets with the local leaders in the area often and medical assistance was one thing that they specifically asked for.

Having conducted similar operations with his team numerous times over the past two years in Africa, Afghanistan and Iraq, Burns was quickly able to procure the medicine, enlist the help of the required personnel and organize the event.

Once they arrived at the selected sight for the operation, a make shift doctors office with two treatment rooms - one for males and another for women and children - was quick-

***"There are some very good physicians who are from this area who have expressed a desire to help us out and actually be the main people who are providing the care...."***

**Lt. Col. Margret Merino, Brigade Surgeon  
2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division**

ly set up and stocked with medicine that had been purchased from the local economy.

"Most of the time we try to purchase local that way the money is going back into the community, and it's not a foreign medicine to them," explained Burns.

On hand to assist the patients were the brigade's surgeon, Lt. Col. Margret Merino and the task force surgeon, Maj. Isaac Johnson, both of whom were assisted by additional medics.

According to Johnson, a native of India, many of the patients who he treated came in with similar ailments and symptoms.

"We definitely saw a lot of the same things over and over," he explained. "Mainly things like vitamin deficiencies, malnutrition, a lot of suspected worm infestations of the abdomen, a lot of rashes and a lot of children with ear infections."

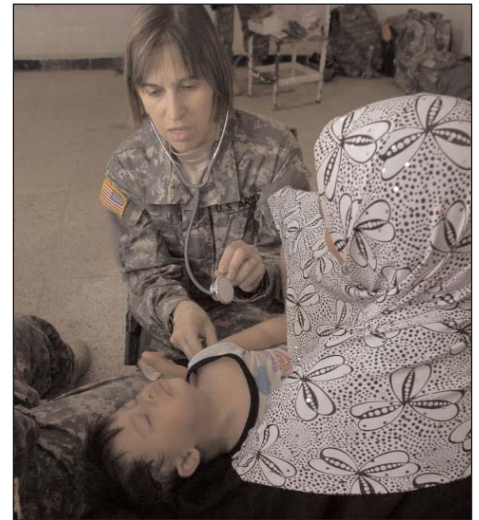
The majority of the medicine that was distributed was described by Johnson as basic medication that would be given out during sick call, but many people also brought prescriptions in with them that they hoped could be filled.

"We got a good feel that they're in need of some type of pharmacy because a lot of what they came for was refills on their medications," Buffalo, N.Y. native, Merino explained.

While Johnson and Merino were the only two doctors on hand for this mission they are both hoping to do this again in the near future, but next time with help from some of the local doctors.

"We foresee working with Iraqi doctors," Merino said. "There are some very good physicians who are from this area who have expressed a desire to help us out and actually be the main people who are providing the care, and that's what we hope to see for the future operations."

Merino also said that there are plans to set up a self-sufficient clinic in the area that



(Photo by Sgt. Robert Yde, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

**Lt. Col. Margret Merino, brigade surgeon for the 1st Cav. Div.'s 2nd BCT, examines a young boy during a medical operation in Baghdad's Karkh District May 26.**

will be able to provide the residents with health care needs on a steadier basis.

"There's an empty building, and these doctors have a desire to work in that building," she explained. "It would be a very nice practice with five different types of sub-specialty doctors, and we're going to try really hard to get that open for them."

During the three hours that the station was set up, nearly 200 people were treated, and while Merino said that she finds it rewarding to be able to come out into the community and help the people.

"I certainly enjoy doing this, but I think it is really important that we start taking ourselves back and letting the Iraqi doctors be on the front lines," she said. "I think that will be the main goal, at least for me, while I'm here, to try to make that happen. It's still very gratifying for me to be able to come out here though and try to do something."

# "An Army of Ron"

## *Air Cavalry Crew Chief Stays Busy in the Baghdad Skies*

By Spc. Nathan Hoskins  
1st ACB Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -Sgt. Ron Scheuren gets to fly nearly every day at work, but this 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division Soldier isn't Superman.

A native of Cisco, Texas, Scheuren flies over Baghdad almost every day as a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew chief for Company B, 3rd "Spearhead" Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment.

As a crew chief, he's responsible for the passengers' and aircraft's protection while flying. He's also responsible for maintaining the Black Hawk while it's not in flight, said Scheuren.

"(Crew chiefs) are not in an office; we're on the flight line all day long. If we're not on the flight line, we're flying. If we're not flying, we're fixing the aircraft," he said.

Before the crew chiefs go out to fly a mission, they first do a pre-flight check of the aircraft to ensure it is functioning properly. Then they load it up with supplies needed for the mission, said Scheuren.

In the skies over Baghdad, Scheuren and his aircrew is all business, but a quick

look at the back of his flight helmet shows he's got a sense of humor, even in a combat zone. He bears the U.S. Army's logo on it, but he's proclaiming himself as "An Army of Ron," poking fun at the Army's recruiting slogan before it became "Army Strong."

After a mission is completed and the flight helmet comes off, Scheuren and his fellow crew chiefs have to perform scheduled maintenance on the aircraft along with any other issues that might have come up during flight, he said.

This daily routine leaves little time to do much else other than eat and sleep, he said.

"When I get off work, I call my wife, shower, grab something to eat and then it's to bed," he said. "You have a little chill time (to) read, play games (and) catch up on the news. Then it's starting all over again."

On a normal day, Scheuren helps fly troops across the battle space so that they can get around quickly and safely, he said.

"(Transporting Soldiers) keeps people off the ground where they're getting hurt. So if you can put them in an aircraft, that just increases their chances of getting from point A to point B," he said.

This happily married father of one knows the risks inherent in being a crew chief, but doesn't let himself think about them very often, he said.

"You put (the risk factor) in the back of your mind. You don't talk about it. You know it's out there, but you don't bring it up," said Scheuren. "Just like everybody else out here, you go do the job you're assigned to do."

Recently Scheuren took part in missions supporting the search for three missing 10th Mountain Division Soldiers.

"This kind of (mission) is the (mission) every crew chief wants to do. It's direct support of an on-going mission there's not a single crew chief that objects to doing this," said Scheuren.

Scheuren is looking forward to going home after the deployment and spending



(Photo by Spc. Nathan Hoskins, 1st ACB Public Affairs)

**Cisco, Texas native Sgt. Ron Scheuren, stands on the flight line of the Baghdad International Airport before heading out on a mission to support the search for three missing 10th Mountain Division Soldiers.**

time with his family and maybe getting in some hunting, he said. But for now, Scheuren is flying high over the skies of Baghdad - making sure his aircraft gets his passengers safely to their final destinations.

"(Being a crew chief) is a great gig," he said. "It's non-stop and it's something different everyday."

